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FOR 1876.
With which is incorporated
THE CHINA DIRECTORY.THIS Work, in the FOURTEENTH
year of its existence, is
NOW READY FOR SALE.It has been compiled and printed at the
Daily Press Office, as usual, from the best
and most authentic sources, and may
have been spared to make the work com-
plete in all respects.In addition to the usual varied and
valuable information, the "CHRONICLE
AND DIRECTORY FOR 1876" contains a
CHROMO-LITHOGRAPHOF
PLAN OF VICTORIA, HONGKONG;
THE
FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS OF
SHANGAI.A Chromo-Lithograph Plate of the
NEW CODE OF SIGNALS IN USE A
TUE PEAK,
also of
THE VARIOUS HOUSE FLAGS
(Designed expressly for the Work,) MAPS OF HONGKONG, JAPAN,
THE
P. & O. COMPANY'S ROUTES,
AND
THE COAST OF CHINA;ALSO THE
NEW CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE
HONGKONG;besides other local information and statistics corrected to date of publication, tending
to make this Work in every way available
for Public, Merchant, and General Offices.
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Hongkong, January 3rd, 1876.

The Daily Press.

HONKONG, JANUARY 21st, 1876.

It is giving utterance to something very like a truism, perhaps, to say that the laws are intended by the Legislature to afford protection and encouragement to honest and lawful trade. No one doubts the good intentions of the Legislature, or supposes for a moment that it would sanction the passing of a measure likely, in any sense, to prove detrimental to the interests of commerce, or to impair injuriously on the mercantile community generally. Yet it sometimes happens that a measure conceived with the very best intentions not only fails to effect the good it was framed to accomplish, but, by some defect or omission in its construction, proves an assistance to rogues and swindlers in preying upon a too credulous public. The Bankruptcy Law of this Colony is a case in point. It was designed for the assistance and relief of honest but unfortunate traders; it has become a useful medium by which unprincipled and penniless adventurers can, by the exercise of sufficient impudence and boldness, cut a dash at the expense of their dupes, and, when their credit is exhausted, fall back upon the refuge which the Colony affords, ultimately coming out clear of liability. Latterly we have had pretty numerous proofs of the fact that the Bankruptcy Law is much abused in Hongkong, and it is evident to all that some amendment of it is urgently necessary.

In England the law differs with that in force in this Colony in one particular which is, we consider, essential to its equitable working.

It is imperative in England that an individual, before he can obtain his discharge, must pay 10s. in the pound, or show that his creditors have agreed to accept a smaller sum. He does not obtain protection as a matter of course. This granted, the bankrupt is safe from arrest. In England there is comparatively little opportunity for his escape, as with most countries we have a treaty under which his condition could be procured. Here, on the contrary, there are great and unusual facilities for fraudulent bankrupts to decamp while holding a protection order. To the Chinese, indeed, nothing is easier. They can take a passage in a native boat, and in a few hours be safe from all pursuit on the mainland. We have no rendition treaty with China, which would assist us in Bankruptcy, and even if such existed it is doubtful whether, for any practical purpose, it would be worth the paper on which it was written. The facility with which these protection orders are obtainable is manifestly a weak point in the present law of this Colony, since it gives fraudulent bankrupts an opportunity of gaining what they are often unable to face—the final examination.

In the interests of merchants and the commercial community generally, some amendment should be made in the law in this respect,

It is monstrous that a speculator son of Han should be able to come over to Hongkong with a cool determination to spoil the inhabitants, and, through a weakness in the colonial law, find no difficulty in carrying out his iniquitous design. Fancy a brute Chinaman in Hongkong with hardly a dollar to his name entering into extensive transactions on credit, quietly transmitting the proceeds to friends in his own country, and in process of time declaring himself insolvent and applying to the Court for protection under the Bankruptcy Ordinance. Having obtained a protection order, which gives him time to put his chattels or effects together, he takes his departure for home, leaving his acquaintances to sing "Oh! where, Oh! where," has he gone? Some people will, perhaps, be inclined to deem this impossible; but similar cases have actually occurred under the signs of the Bankruptcy Law in this Colony. For this evil state of affairs, however, a remedy might, we think, be found.

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The Lordship asked the jury, if it was

Extracts.

THE OLD CORK BUCY.

A Yarn of the Wreck of the *Soleil*, spun by FRED. INGRAM.
FIRST PARTON.—
The night was dark, the tempest raged,
It seemed to every hand on board;
As if the sea had sky;
In one confounding mass were blent
And rent by the gale;
Save when the lightning rent
The darkness at a veil.
Our hosts were gone, and only we,
Our mad 'gainst wild and red,
On home-tidings thrown, lay alone
On Kingsdown, laid by Deaf.

SECOND PARTON.—
A soft bell, a muffled sound,
A crashing, tearing grind,
A shock a crash!—all are agreed!
A great noise, a roar,
The waves break over the sand-and-salt,
Our decks are swift seas cleat;
Not even a spark to make a raft,
Left us. We sink with fear.
The lightning's flash, the thunder's crack,
Shakes the earth from trust to treach,
The waves tumultuous dash and dash!
O King down, laid by Deaf!

TILLED PARTON.—
We sate jocosely and gay,
Both passengers and crew,
With care for help, we ne'er Heaven,
No help appear'd in view;
We clung to ropes along the deck,
And strained eaching sight,
Then spied a rock, a helpless wreck,
The waves to lay the boat,
One gloomy star shone th' dark,
We watch it roll and reel;

"The lifeboat's out," we wildly shout,
From Kingsdown, laid by Deaf.

THIRD PARTON.—

Now poised upon the billows crest,
Now whelmed in the deep,
She strangles on—no pause no rest;
She climbs the wat'ry steep;

Save here, but cannot make us,
To land, to land, to land,

Must death then overtake us,

Spare our native shore!

On board that boat, could we but float,

A line. Heartless as steel,

Wait us from wat'ry grave,
Of Kingsdown, laid by Deaf.

FOURTH PARTON.—

Of all the lumber round the dock,
Naught is there left; save one

Old anchor buoy, itself a wreck

With bold intent to be a rock,

Thee he'd fit to a stone,

And hover over thee;

"God help us!" 'tis our only hope;

"It's near them—Nay!" we aver now;

Again the lines we reel,

Again its cast, our hearts beat fast,

Of Kingsdown, laid by Deaf.

FIFTH PARTON.—

Twice has the old thatched its mark!

"I'll stand it; it wears well."

Twice have we lost it in the dark!

"Twice is the shabby thy

Of blue-light burn'd about that bark,

We see it dashed and whited,

Our refuge safe, our only ark;

Of this world—

Twice has the old thatched the hawk.

"It's hitch'd! A joyous yell,

A clamorous shout rises bold, east

Of Kingsdown, laid by Deaf.

SIXTH PARTON.—

God bless the lighthouse and her crew,

Her coxswain brave and bold,

And "Jury's Arnold" is his name;

Sprang from those Vikings bold,

Who made the wind and sea their slaves,

As to us? We're to do,

What we're to do;

What the waves do blow,

And the stormy flood that breath,

We hold in honour least,

And it shall grize the chiefest place,

In Kingsdown, laid by Deaf.

—*California.*

THEATRICAL MATTERS AND THEATRES.

I fear I am talking "shop" to an alarmist

and a wearying extent, but I must have

to refer to the very general green-room belief

that when a play is "read" to the artists,

and is received with "cheers, tears, and

laughter," it is bound to produce an opposite effect when performed before the British public. This idea, I am firmly convinced, cherished not so much for its intrinsic worth, as that it suggests a sort of negative value in the parallel supposition that the play which is not productive of mirth when read to the actors is pretty sure to succeed in consequence of its melancholy reception. As most plays read to the artists are received in gloom, silence, the latter theory is of course a soothing one to the management. Certainly occasions happen when the personal popularity of the reader or his artistic delivery of his own dialogue, the drama is not only heartily received but vehemently applauded; but generally the taste is a thankless and depressing one, and the author only too often closes his manuscript with a sigh of relief which is loudly echoed by his small, silent, critical, and not altogether unkind audience. But do plays which cause the performers fail generally on production? No. Actors are the best critics in the world when their personal feelings do not affect their judgments. As a rule—if there can be a rule in things theatrical—a piece which causes a dozen intelligent persons is more likely than not to entertain a thousand. The silly notion that the actors who are amused at a preliminary reading of a play know nothing about it, and that their approbation means prospective failure is rubbish, and is one of the stupid and childish superstitions clinging to the skirts of the "profession." With a word or two upon the popular professional belief that certain theatres are lucky, others unlucky, and that certain actors, authors, and managers are the like, I will bring my too lengthy observations to a close. How often have I heard (and do I hear) the remark, "That theatre can never be unlucky." How frequently is that sweeping assertion disproved! A manager came from abroad a little time back and took an establishment of the worst repute financially. He crowded it to the roof during the season he held, and migrating to another "unlucky" house, did the same. It ever a theatre had the reputation of being unlucky, it was for years the Lyceum. Look at the list of the most distinguished dramatists of modern days was within my recollection (and not so very long ago either)—considered—as an actor—so unlucky that I remember a provincial manager telling me he wouldn't let him enter his theatre. His two first places showed no signs of the remarkable ability he displayed in later years, but the "luckless" one lived to found a school of dramatic writing, and his works brought a fortune to the management he served so well. Certain towns, too, labour under the imputation of being "unlucky," notably a large border one in the midland counties. I recently saw "the returns" of a travelling company who had played conversational comedy, instead of "The Man of the Last Curse" but "Two" class of drama, which it was supposed was the only kind of entertainment welcome to the locality in question, and was as much surprised as pleased to find that the money received was equal to that gained in such cities as Manchester or Edinburgh. There is, of course, such a thing as ill-luck, and it manifests itself in an inability on the part of the unfortunate spectator to discover the kind of article required by the public, or, having discovered it, an inability to supply said article in a satisfactory manner. These are the sort of people who when they pass under a ladder and are struck by a falling brick, blame the ladder and not the brick; indeed, they take a melancholy sort of satisfaction in exhibiting the bruise, as evidence in favour of the superstition of their childhood.—H. J. BROWN in London Magazine.

THE LAWS OF ALFRED THE GREAT.

THE OLD TOWER OF FATEBURN.

This was the characteristic Highland fortress of a sort of the Macleans, guarding the entrance of one of the glens which open upon the lowlands of the Black Isle, Ross-shire, towards the close of the last century. Mcderick Maclellan of Fairburn, the natural grandfather of Sir Roderick Murchison, was a jolly old laird, who lived for more than ninety years, although, as he used to say of himself in regard to whisky, claret, or other potations, he was a "perfect standard" in an expression handed down by Sir Roderick Murchison. There was a tradition in the district to the effect that the lands of Fairburn should pass out of the hands of the Macleans and that "the sow should Hitler in the lady's chamber." The old tower became in 1819 Professor Sadwick and Sir Roderick Murchison, while travelling in the Highlands, turned aside to see the ruined tower. "The Professor and I," says Murchison, "were groping our way up through the stone staircase, when we were almost knocked over by a rush of two or three pigs that had been nesting upstairs in the very room in which my mother was born.—GEOFFREY'S Memoirs of Sir R. Murchison.

AN OLD HAND.

At the Easter Festivals in Rome one ceremony is the public baptism of a converted Jew, who is dipped bodily into the ancient sarcophagi as votive offerings at Constantine's temple, to determine concerning the fact, and the judge gave sentence according to their verdict. This privilege, enjoyed by the English to this day, is doubtless the noblest and most valuable that subjects can have. An Englishman accused of any crime is to be tried only by his peers—that is, by persons of his own rank—against whom a judicium expeditum. The newly-baptised Jew immediately relapses into Judaism, ready to be reconverted annually for a consideration—in fact for the festival. It becomes so practised in the ceremonial proceedings of the occasion that he slips directly into one of the renovated sarcophagi, dons and does his habiliments with the readiness of an eager and well-trained circus horse which, performs his intricate part in the evolution of an aquatic display before his equity can utter the word of command. One Roman Jew is said to have thus earned a decent livelihood for twenty consecutive years, much to the honour and glory of Mother Church, whose yearly converts costs her less than £23,000, is sure to be forthcoming, and is quite as satisfactory to fanatic supporters of proselytism.—The Gentleman's Magazine.

VIRGINIA.

In English eyes Virginia is a pleasant country, with an aspect that recalls the home hills in Kent. Her air is soft, her climate fine. How green her fields, how fresh her streams, how bright her uplands! Fronting the sea, she faces all the world, and every port where trade is carried on lies open to her enterprise. Deep friths indent her shores and tides flow up her valleys. She is everywhere a water power. A thousand sparkling rills drop down her wooded heights. Her dells are cool with ponds and lakes, her ravines musical with steps, cascades, and falls. Down every hollow winds a rivulet, blessing the soil through which it flows, and carrying sea-ward the accumulating forest-trees—fuel for fire, pinaking for homestead, mast and spar for ship. But she has beauties of her own, the like of which we English only see in dreams. A ridge of appennines bulges across the country, separating the fertile Shenandoah valley on the east from the enchanting Winchester valley on the west. These appennines are the bone of this range of mountain woods is hardly to be matched on earth. Groups of hills start here, and there beyond the chain of heights; one alp called White Top Mountain, lifting its head above the line that Snowdon would attain, if she were piled on the highest peak of the Cheviot Hills. Those hills are clothed with pine and maple, oak and chestnut, to their crowns.

He who sees them, can determine somewhat respecting the physical requirements of living creatures; and the biologist can show how the races inhabiting our earth have gradually become modified in accordance with the varying conditions surrounding them; how certain ill-adapted races have died out while well-adapted ones have thrived and multiplied, and how matters have so proceeded that during the whole time since he began upon our earth there has been no danger of the disappearance of any of the leading orders of living creatures. But no astronomer, or geologist, or physicist, or biologist, can tell us anything certain about his life in other worlds. If a man possessed the fullest knowledge of all the leading branches of scientific research, he would remain perfectly ignorant can speculate on such matters as freely as the most learned. Indeed the ignorant can speculate a great deal more freely. And it is here, precisely, that knowledge has the advantage. The student of science feels that in such matters he must be guided by the analogies which have been already brought to his knowledge. If he rejects the Brewsterian or the Whewellite theory, it is not because either theory is a mere speculation for which he fears to substitute a speculation of his own; but because on a careful consideration of

the facts, he finds that the analogies on which theories were based were either insufficient, or were not correctly dealt with, and that other analogies, or these when rightly viewed point to a different conclusion as more probable.—Science Bazaar, by RICHARD A. PROCTOR.

CHINESE CHILDREN.

There are many curious ceremonies and observances connected with a child's early years, which it would be impossible to describe in detail. The following are among the more noteworthy and important:—When the baby is a month old its head is shaved for the first time, and on this occasion a thin offering is made to a certain goddess; at the end of the fourth month a family feast takes place, and the maternal grandmother is expected to make handsome presents, including a specie of chair for the child's use; at the end of year there are more thank offerings, more feasts, and more presents; till later on there is the annual custom of "passing through the door." These and similar family customs have to be observed to the end until the child "goes out of childhood," an event which takes place usually, though not necessarily, at the age of sixteen; at this period the child becomes an adult, and is expected to put away childish things. But although some become men at this early age, they are by no means exempted from parental authority, for unless they happen to be in the service of the State, when the Emperor takes the place of their parents, they are bound to yield implicit obedience to their fathers as long as they live. The same rule, of course, will be understood to apply with even greater force in the case of daughters. This is the strict theory of Chinese customs, but the practice of everyday life is necessarily not quite concurring with the views of extremely formal behaviour, it sometimes though not often, happens that parents bid their children before the magistrates and get them punished. Cases of parecide and matricide are treated in a very strange manner among the Chinese, for the murderers are not only beaten, but cut up into little pieces; their houses are pulled down and the foundations dug up; punishment is even inflicted upon their neighbours, and the very officials are degraded on account of such horrible crimes having happened within their jurisdiction.

In reference to some of the matters of which we have just been speaking, it will not be without interest to notice what is laid down in regard to the various stages of a man's life in the Book of Rites, a work which is held in the highest esteem by the Chinese. From birth till ten years old, it is said, man is called a child, and then begins to learn; till twenty he is called a youth, and is then capped; to thirty, he is in his manhood, and may marry; at forty, he is full of strength, and may enter the magistracy; at fifty, he becomes grey, and may serve in the high offices of state; at sixty, he becomes advanced in years, and may direct affairs; at seventy, he becomes an old man, and may retire from the cares of public life; at eighty and ninety, he becomes infirm and forgetful. Till seven, the child is an object of compassion, and both he and the man of seventy and eighty are not liable to punishment when guilty of crimes. When a man reaches a hundred years, then he must be fed.—Sunday Magazine.

HONGKONG MARKETS.

As reported by Charles on Feb. 20th, 1876.

COTTON GOODS.

American Shirting, 16 lbs., per piece \$20.00 & 2.00
American Drills, 50 yards, 2.75 & 3.00
Cotton Yarn, No. 22, per 40 lbs., 1.00 & 1.20
Cotton, 2 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 3 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 5 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 10 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 15 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 20 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 25 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 30 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 35 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 40 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 45 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 50 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 55 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 60 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 65 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 70 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 75 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 80 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 85 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 90 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 95 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 100 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 105 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 110 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 115 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 120 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 125 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 130 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 135 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 140 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 145 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 150 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 155 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 160 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
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" 350 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 355 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 360 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 365 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 370 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 375 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 380 lbs., 11.00 & 12.00
" 385 lbs